

Message Text

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TO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310070

FOR POLAD FOR HOLBROOKE

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 37879 ACTION STATE SINGAPORE INFO KUALA
LUMPUR BANGKOK HONG KONG DEC 29.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27879

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, SN

SUBJ: SINGAPORE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

1. THE SINGAPORE CHARGE IN PARIS (AZIZ) SAID THAT
HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM A COLLEAGUE WHO
SERVED AS INTERPRETER OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
HIS FONMIN AND A VIETNAMESE REP (AMB IN KUALA LUMPUR) PROTESTING
THE SINGAPORE HANDLING OF THE VIETNAMESE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE HIJACKING. THE CONVERSATION BECAME VERY HEATED AND THE
VIETNAMESE BEGAN TO SHOUT AND ABUSE THE SINGAPORE PM AND HIS GOVT.
FINALLY THE MINISTER, WHO IS A USUALLY A VERY SELF-CONTROLLED
PERSON, LOST HIS TEMPER AND REPLIED WITH VIGOR AND ENDED BY
TELLING THE VIETNAMESE THAT HE SHOULD BE ON THE NEXT PLANE
LEAVING SINGAPORE. THE CHARGE HERE THOUGHT THAT THIS STORMY
INTERVIEW MIGHT AFFECT HIS RELATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE HERE,
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BUT THE SRV AMB, VO VAN SUNG, HAS CONTINUED TO BE VERY CORIDAL
AND "JOKING". THE FONMIN, HOWEVER, IS STILL ANNOYED WITH THE
VIETNAMESE LACK OF MANNERS.

2. AZIZ NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD OFTEN BEEN VERY CLUMSY
IN THEIR HANDLING OF HIS GOVT, AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE
MALAYSIANS, WHO HAD MORE FREQUENT ACCESS TO THE VIETNAMESE,

WERE ATTEMPTING TO EDUCATE THE VIETNAMESE ON HOW TO HANDLE ALL
THE ASIEAN COUNTRIES. HARTMAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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